Sl. No.	Name of the Artists	Field
64.	Kiran Segal	Odissi
65.	Aditi Mangaldas	Kathak
66.	Vaswati Mishra	Bharatanatayam
67.	Leela Samson	Bharatanatayam
68	Alarmel Valli	Bharatanatayam
69.	Chitra Visweswaran	Dance Drama
70.	Jhaveri Sisters	Manipuri Dances
71.	Uma Sharma	Dance Drama
72.	Kum Kum Dhar	Kathak
73.	Pratibha Jena	Odissi
74.	Alarmel Valli & Madhavi Mudgal	Bharatanatayam/ Odissi
75.	Swapanasundri	Odissi

Minister's visit to Japan

2355. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of External Affairs recently visited Japan;

(b) if so, what bilateral and international issues were discussed during the visit;

(c) whether Japanese Government has shown a cold shoulder to our efforts for increasing business with Japan; and

(d) what stand was taken by Tokyo relating to withdrawal of sanctions against India and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir, I visited Japan on November 23—26, 1999.

(b) During my visit, I met Prime Minsiter Obuchi, Foreign Minister Kono, Minister for Internal Trade & Industry T. Fukaya and Director General of Self Defence Agency, T. Kawara. We discussed various aspects of bilateral relations, regional issues and international issues of mutual interest. Both sides agreed that bilateral relations

should be normalised and developed further in the interests of peace and stability in Asia and the world. We agreed also that dialogue at various levels should continue in order to enhance awareness and understanding of each other's views and concerns.

(c) No Sir. An investment dialogue between India and Japan was held in New Delhi in August 1999. During my visit, the Japanese side indicated that an economic mission would visit India in the 1st quarter of 2000. The India-Japan Business Cooperation Committee (IJBCC) is also scheduled to meet in New Delhi in February 2000.

(d) the Japanese side réiterated their position that India's signing of the CTBT would enable them to review the economic sanctions imposed by them. I explained the government's stand on the nuclear issue. I pointed to the need for the creation of a positive environment as we work towards building the widest possible consensus domestically.

British Minister's visit to India

2356. SMT. VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Mr. Peter Hain visited New Delhi in November this year; and

(b) if so, what issues were discussed with him and what were the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Mr. Peter Hain, the British Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs visited India from 17—19 November, 1999 as the Special Envoy of Prime Minister Tony Blair.

(b) The visit provided an opportunity for wide-ranging discussions on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest and contemporary relevance. The discussions have also contributed to the ongoing political dialogue with the U.K., and led to an enhanced understanding of India's concerns on various issues, including on developments in the neighbourhood, cross border terrorism, disarmament and security related issues.